

Cherokee Indians in 1730. The Cherokee were defeated in 1761 by a force of settlers, Chickasaws and Creeks. The site of an early American Indian village, Nikwasi, is marked by a mound in Franklin.

**Follow U.S. 64 West/U.S. 23/441 South for 7.5 miles to the community of Cartoogechaye,** (pronounced *car-too-gi-chay*). The nearby mountains are part of the Nantahala range in the Nantahala National Forest. **After about four miles, cross Winding Stair Gap,** one of the early western passages along the Appalachian Trail.

**Continue two miles through the community of Rainbow Springs and then nearly two miles to Black Gap on the Macon/Clay County line. This portion takes motorists 10 miles along the ridge lines of the Chunky Gal Mountains,** where there are a number of scenic overlooks **before the byway passes through Shooting Creek.**

American Indian lore tells of an overweight maiden from nearby who ran away to get married without her father's permission. The dismayed thinner maidens of the tribe gave her the nickname "Chunky Gal."

**Shooting Creek is 8.5 miles from Hayesville,** the Clay County seat. **Four miles east of Hayesville the byway passes Lake Chatuge,** which is known as the crown jewel of the Tennessee Valley Authority lakes. The water is now part of the Hiawasee River. Hayesville was named in 1891 for the town's founder, George Hayes. Fort Hembree, one of the gathering places for the Cherokee who were forced to leave this part of the country for Oklahoma on the "Trail of Tears," is located in town.

**Continue for three miles, turn left onto Settawig Road (S.R. 1135) and follow it for 2.5 miles toward Brasstown.** While in Brasstown, visit the John C. Campbell Folk School, where visitors learn trades such as pottery, weaving and blacksmithing. **From Settawig Road briefly turn right onto Old U.S. 64 (S.R. 1100) before turning left onto Brasstown Road (S.R. 1134). Follow Brasstown Road briefly before turning right onto Harshaw Road (S.R. 1558). Follow Harshaw Road for 6.5 miles where the route ends in Murphy at the intersection with U.S. 19/129.**

Murphy, the Cherokee County seat, is the site of Fort Butler, a frontier fort in the early 1800s and a temporary stockade for Cherokee along the "Trail of Tears." Located at the junction of the Hiawasee and Valley rivers, the town was also an early trading post. Additionally, it serves as the southern terminus of the Great Smoky Mountain Railway. Because the route follows winding mountain roads, travel time may be slow along the route and may also vary by season.

The Nantahala Byway (pg. 21) begins north of Murphy in the town of Marble. The Forest Heritage Scenic Byway (pg. 30) ties in at the beginning of this route.



**Length: 98 miles**  
**Drive Time: 3.5 hours**  
**Counties: Cherokee,**  
**Clay, Jackson,**  
**Macon and**  
**Transylvania**



**Note: Tractor-trailer trucks are prohibited on this road and it is not recommended for recreational vehicles or buses.**